

Message Text

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44

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P 051710Z JUL 75 ZEX

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL FLARE UP IN AEGEAN: TURKISH-CONTRACTED SHIP
(GOEL I) IN GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS

REF: IZMIR 148

1. CONSULAR OFFICER SPOKE TODAY WITH GOEL I MASTER KJELL MARO AND PARTY MANAGER JIM LOWE REGARDING THE ALLEDGED INTRUSION OF THE GOEL I INTO GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS. BOTH READILY ADMITTED THE INTRUSION BUT HASTENED TO EXPLAIN THAT THEY HAD INTRUDED FOR TECHNICAL REASONS. THEY STATED THAT WHILE PERFORMING PROSPECT OPERATIONS THE GOEL I TOWS A CABLE 1.7 MILES IN LENGTH WHICH

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CONTAINS MICROPHONES TO RECORD SONIC WAVE READINGS OF THE OCEAN SHOTS. AT THE TIME OF THE INTRUSION THE GOEL I HAD COMPLETED A PROSPECT TRACK AND REQUIRED OCEAN SPACE TO TURN FOR THE SUCCEEDING PROSPECT TRACK WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROTECTING THE TOWED CABLE FROM BINDING. (CABLE CANNOT BE TOWED AT A SPEED IN EXCESS OF 4 - 5 KNOTS.) THEY EMPHASIZED THAT NO REPEAT NO SHOTS WERE MADE IN GREEK WATERS.

2. MARO AND LOWE WENT ON TO RELATE THAT GOEL I HAD BEEN ESCORTED AT ALL TIMES IN PROSPECT AREA BY BOTH GREEK AND TURK NAVAL SHIPS

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AND THAT THE GREEK SHIP GENERALLY MAINTAINED A POSITION SIX AND

ONE HALF MILES FROM TURKISH SHORE LINE AND PARALLEL TO GOEL I PROSPECT TRACK. THEY SAID THAT THEY HAD EXPLAINED VIA RADIO TO THE GREEK SHIP THEIR REQUIREMENT FOR ADEQUATE SEA ROOM TO MANEUVER THEIR TOWED CABLE AND THAT ALTHOUGH THEY HAD RECEIVED NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THEIR TRANSMISSION THE GREEK SHIP WHICH WAS THEN ON THEIR PORT QUARTER GAVE WAY WHEN THEY REQUESTED LEEWAY FOR A PORT TURN.

3. CONSULAR OFFICER THANKED MARO AND LOWE FOR THEIR COOPERATION AND WARNED THEM TO AVOID GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS UNLESS THEY FIRST RECEIVE PERMISSION TO ENTER THOSE WATERS. THEY AGREED TO THAT

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COURSE OF ACTION AND STATED THAT FUTURE EXPLORATIONS WHICH THEY WOULD CONDUCT IN TURKISH CONTRACT AREA WOULD NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS. GOEL I PLANS TO RESUME PROSPECT OPERATIONS EARLY NEXT WEEK.
SMITH

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